

SPAWN



141



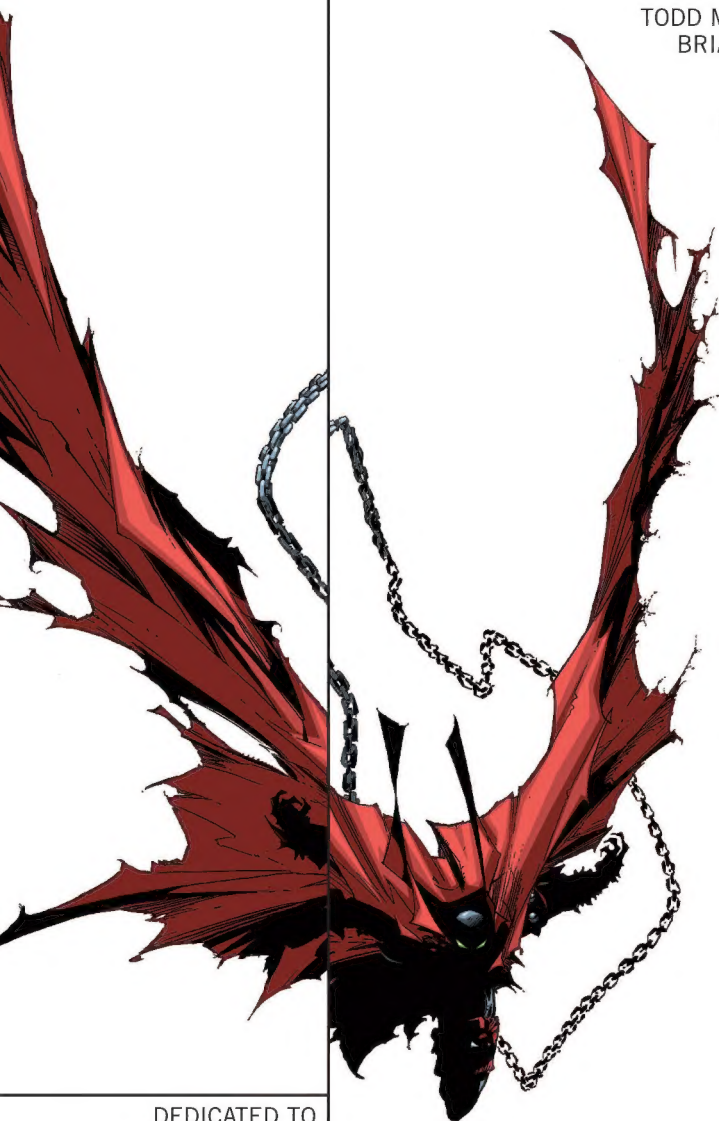
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM

TODD McFARLANE AND
IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

HELLBOUND

3



DEDICATED TO
MARK A.Z. DIPPE'

PLOT

TODD McFARLANE
BRIAN HOLGUIN

STORY

BRIAN HOLGUIN

PENCILS

NAT JONES

INKS

NAT JONES

LETTERING

TOM ORZECOWSKI

COLOR

JAY FOTOS

COVER

GREG CAPULLO

PRESIDENT OF
ENTERTAINMENT
TERRY FITZGERALD

ART DIRECTOR
JASON GONZALEZ

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
BEN TIMMRECK

PRODUCTION MANAGER
TYLER JEFFERS

COPY EDITOR
DION BOZMAN

MANAGER OF
INT'L. PUBLISHING
FOR TMP
SUZY THOMAS

PUBLISHER FOR
IMAGE COMICS
ERIK LARSEN

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

SPAWN 140 SUMMARY

Searching for a single soul in Hell is not an easy task. One must keep her eyes wide open and instincts sharp. Nyx learns these lessons in full as she travels deeper into Hell in search of her lost friend Thea. Still trying to grasp the entirety of her recently acquired Hell-born powers, she wanders the plains of Hell in the direction she prays will lead her to Thea.

Trying to survive the local residents of Hell may be more than Nyx is prepared to handle, even with a newly formed ally, The Redeemer, by her side.

TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
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SOARING
THROUGH
BLUE
SUMMER
SKIES...
FREE AS
A BIRD...
NOT A
CARE IN
THE
WORLD.



HOW I LOATHE
IT NOW.

FROM
ABOVE,
YOU GET A
CLEARER
PICTURE
OF HELL.



A HUNDRED
THOUSAND
LANDSCAPES
OF TORTURE,
ALL
STITCHED
TOGETHER
INTO SOME
PROFANE
PATCHWORK
QUILT.

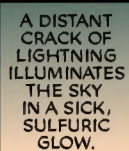


EVERYWHERE
IS DIFFERENT,
BUT ALL OF IT
THE SAME.



PAIN...
ANGUISH...
LONELINESS...
FEAR...
ISOLATION...

SO MANY
SHADES
OF
HORROR
AND NOT
A SINGLE
RAY OF
HOPE.



A DISTANT
CRACK OF
LIGHTNING
ILLUMINATES
THE SKY
IN A SICK,
SULFURIC
GLOW.



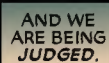
THE *BLACK
TOWER* IS
SILHOUETTED
AGAINST THE
CLOUDS, A
COLOSSAL
JAVELIN
AIMED AT
HEAVEN.



A
CONSTANT
REMINDER
TO ALL
WHO
DWELL
HERE.



WE ARE
BEING
WATCHED.



AND WE
ARE BEING
JUDGED.



I WAS
BEGINNING
TO THINK
YOU WEREN'T
COMING
BACK.

I GAVE
YOU MY
WORD.

SO, DID YOU
LEARN
ANYTHING?



HELL IS *CHANGING*.
EVEN IN THE SHORT TIME
I'VE BEEN HERE, I CAN TELL.
IT'S *MUTATING* INTO SOME-
THING DIFFERENT.

THE *NEW*
KING IS SHUTTERED
AWAY IN HIS TOWER.
EVERY *IMP* AND *SHADOW*
HAS AN OPINION ON
WHAT HE'S DOING, BUT
NONE CAN SAY FOR
CERTAIN.



THE BORDERS
ARE ALL *FALLING*.
THE *CIRCLES OF*
HELL ARE BEGINNING
TO *BLEED* INTO EACH
OTHER. NO ONE IS SURE
WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHEN THAT
OCCURS.

THIS
PLACE... IF I
HAD KNOWN,
I COULD
NEVER...

YOU
WERE
RASH.



I MEAN,
I IMAGINED,
BUT... IT'S JUST
BEYOND
ANY...

A NAIVE
FOOL.



WE ARE
AT THE *EDGES*
OF HELL. TRUST
ME, IT GETS
MUCH WORSE
THE DEEPER
WE GO.

IT'S NOT
TOO LATE.
HEAD BACK.
BEG FOR
YOUR LIFE.
HE MIGHT
SHOW
MERCY.



SHUT UP! I DIDN'T COME THIS FAR JUST TO TURN BACK!

EXCUSE ME?

SORRY. THERE'S... UH... THIS VOICE IN MY HEAD. *SPAWN'S* VOICE.

APPARENTLY WHEN I STOLE HIS POWER, HIS *SUBCONSCIOUS* DECIDED TO TAG ALONG FOR THE RIDE.



OH.

LISTEN... I HAVE TO ASK YOU. YOUR FRIEND... *THEA*...WHAT DID SHE DO?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



SHE'S HERE FOR A REASON. WAS SHE A MURDERER? A PEDOPHILE?

NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT. JUST A SAD, LOST SOUL.

THAT'S GOOD.

GOOD?



YES. IT MEANS WE WON'T HAVE TO GO IN VERY FAR.



I TAKE IT
THE THRESHOLD
FOR GOOD NEWS
IS PRETTY LOW
HERE.

YOU'RE
WASTING
TIME.
EVERY
MOMENT
YOU
SPEND...

YEAH.
YEAH. I
KNOW.



LISTEN, THERE'S
A **CONJURING** I CAN DO.
A **SPELL** TO **LOCATE** HER.
BUT IT REQUIRES TOTAL
CONCENTRATION.

SO IF YOU
CAN MAKE SURE
I'M NOT **EATEN** OR
IMPALED OR **CRUCIFIED**
BY ANYTHING, I'D BE
MUCH OBLIGED.



THEA...
MY SISTER IN
SHADOWS... DEAR
OF MY HEART...
BY OUR **BLOOD-**
MINGLED OATH
I CALL TO
YOU...



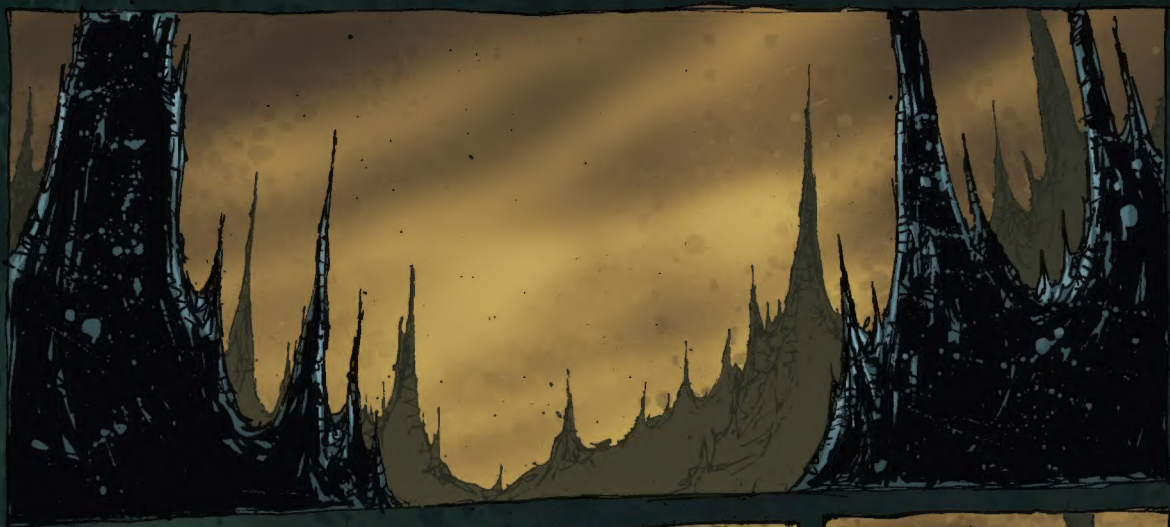
WE ARE **BOUND**
WITH A POWER
BEYOND WORLDS...
CALL TO ME AS I CALL
OUT TO YOU... SHOW
ME THE WAY THAT I
MAY FIND YOU...



AND IN
FINDING
YOU... SET
YOU **FREE**...
SHOW ME
THE... I... I
CAN SEE
HER!



OH,
GOD, IT'S
SO
DARK.



WE'RE
GETTING
CLOSER. I
CAN *FEEL*
IT.



THIS IS
THE VALE OF
DESPAIR.

IT IS A PLACE
GIVEN OVER TO
*PROFLIGATES AND
SUICIDES*. TO THOSE SO
LOST TO THEIR OWN
DARKNESS, THEY CAN
NEVER HOPE TO FIND
THEIR WAY FREE.

SHE
MUST HAVE
BEEN A
TROUBLED
GIRL, YOUR
FRIEND.



SHE WAS.
I WISH I COULD
HAVE HELPED HER
MORE WHEN SHE
WAS *ALIVE*. MAYBE
THEN IT WOULDN'T
HAVE COME TO
ALL THIS.

I MEAN,
SHE WAS
JUST A *KID*,
FOR *CHRIST'S*
SAKE. SHE
DOESN'T
DESERVE THIS.
NO ONE
DOES.



AND
GOD IS A
BASTARD
JUST TO LET
A PLACE
LIKE THIS
EXIST.



I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST THAT
SEEING ALL THIS
MAKES MY BLOOD
BOIL. IT'S SO
UNJUST!

NO... IT'S ALL
RIGHT. LET YOUR
ANGER BURN. RAGE
IS A FINE ANTIDOTE
TO DESPAIR.



IT SPURS
YOU TO FIGHT
WHEN OTHERS
GIVE UP.

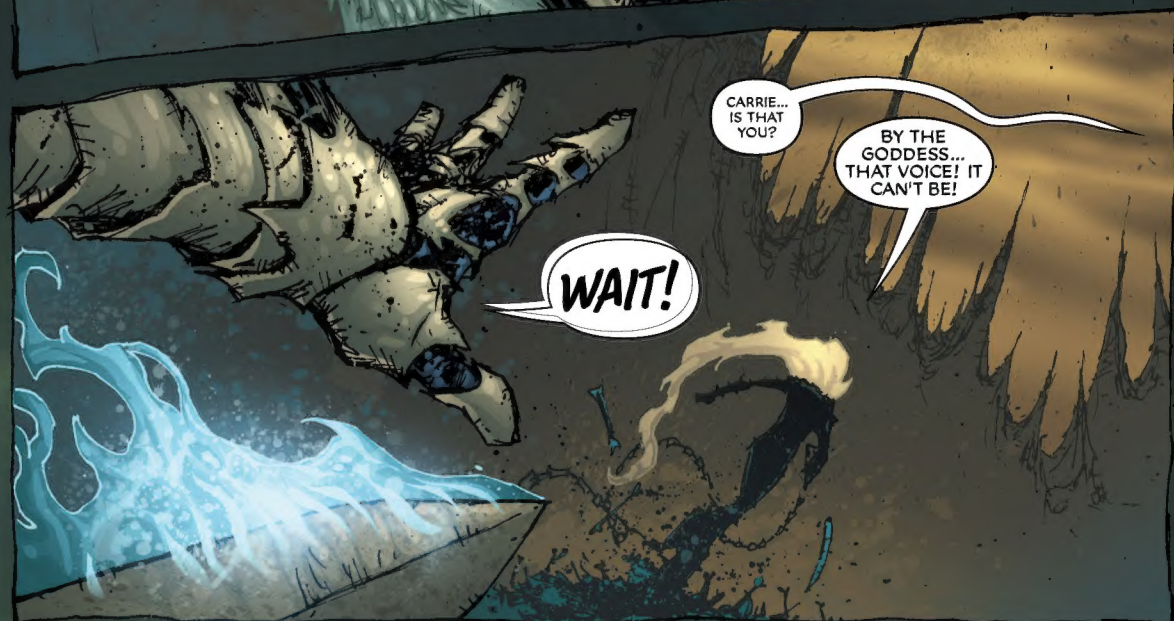
WAIT...
DID YOU
HEAR
THAT?



WHAT?

CARRIE...

THAT.



CARRIE...
IS THAT
YOU?

BY THE
GODDESS...
THAT VOICE! IT
CAN'T BE!

WAIT!

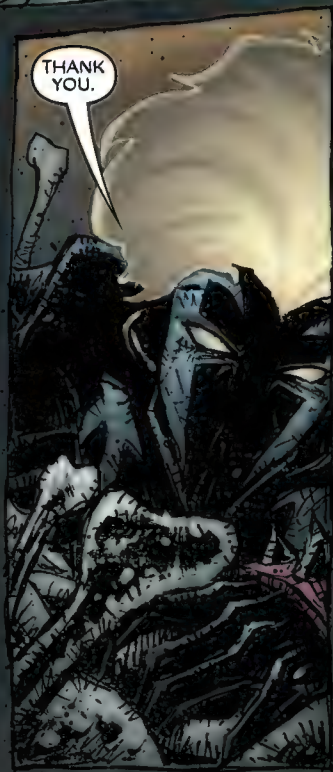
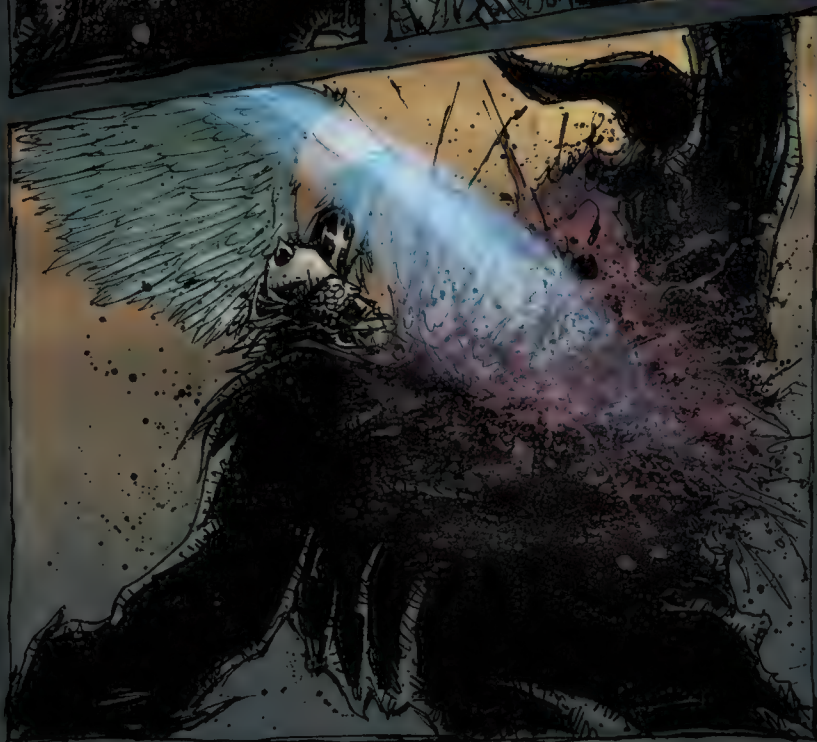




HELLSPAWN?!
YOU WERE
BANISHED FROM
THIS PLACE!

DADDY!

CARRIE!
OH GOD!
NO!





OH, MY
DARLING
GIRL. LOOK AT
HOW YOU'VE
GROWN.

HOW DID
YOU---?

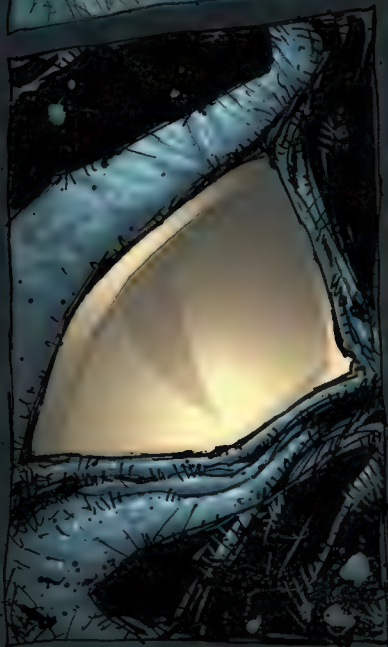


GET
AWAY
FROM
HER.



YOU DIDN'T
THINK I'D FORGET
MY *BABY GIRL*. YOU
CAME FOR ME, DIDN'T
YOU? I KNEW YOU
WOULD.

YOU'VE
COME TO *SET*
YOUR *DADDY*
FREE!



NO...
THAT'S
NOT WHY...
I MEAN, I
DIDN'T
KNOW...



IT'S OKAY,
SUGAR. I'VE
LEARNED MY LESSON.
I WON'T TAKE YOU FOR
GRANTED ANYMORE. I
KNOW HOW *SPECIAL*
YOU ARE.

AND I'M
GOING TO LET
YOU KNOW IT
EVERY SINGLE
SECOND...

A winged, skeletal creature is being thrown away by a large, dark, monstrous figure. The creature is screaming in pain.

I SAID
GET
AWAY!


Nooo!

Ha HA
HA HA
HA ha
ha!

A close-up of a Hellspawn's face. The creature has a wide, toothy grin, glowing red eyes, and is screaming with its mouth open. It has a ruffled collar and its hair is blowing in the wind.

Oh, don't
be **MAD**,
HELLSPAWN!
I couldn't **HELP**
MYSELF!

HALF OF
HELL could hear
you calling out for your
dear lost soul-friend.
BOOHOOHOO!
Such a **PATHETIC**
CREATURE!




And such a
ROOKIE MISTAKE!
You'll **NEVER** make it
out of here **ALIVE!!**
Haha **HAAha!**



I...
CAN'T
TAKE IT!
THIS IS TOO
MUCH...

TOO MUCH
FOR MORTAL EYES...
JUST **KNOWING** THIS
PLACE **EXISTS**... ALL
THESE **PEOPLE**, ALL
THESE **SOULS**....



THE WAY
IT TEARS AT
YOU... THE WAY
IT SCREWS WITH
YOUR HEAD... I
CAN'T DO IT...

I JUST
CAN'T.



GET
OVER IT.
THIS
ISN'T
ABOUT
YOU.

NOW SUCK
IT UP, FIND
THE STRENGTH,
FIND THE
COURAGE...



...AND
GET YOUR
ASS
MOVING.

PLEASE...
I... I **NEED**
YOU. YOU
GAVE YOUR
WORD.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



TELL ME, HOW
DO YOU STAND IT? HOW
DO YOU NOT GO MAD
FROM IT ALL?

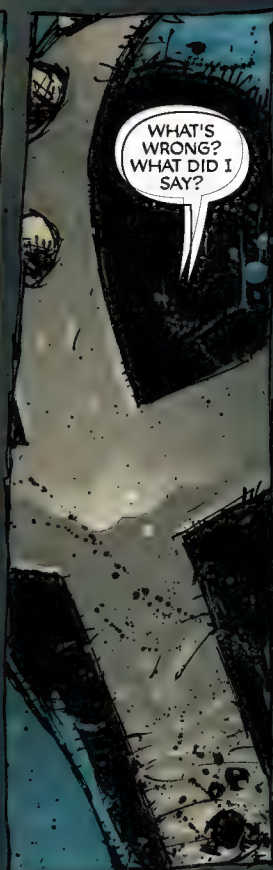
I *DID* GO
MAD. I WAS LOST
IN *DESPAIR*. FULL OF
TERROR AND DREAD AND
RAGE AGAINST THE ONE
WHOSE MANTLE
YOU WEAR.

SO WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU DID.
YOU CAME
HERE. AND
FILLED ME
WITH NEW
HOPE.



OH GOD,
DON'T DO
THIS TO
ME...



WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHAT DID I
SAY?



NOTHING.
I... I
THINK WE'RE
HERE.



THE VERY
DEPTHS OF
DESPAIR.



GO
'WAY.



THEA...
OH GOD, IT'S
YOU. I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY I TOOK
SO LONG.

DON'T
HURT ME.
PLEASE....

IT'S ME.
CARRIE. CARRIE
ANDREWS. WE
WERE... ARE...
FRIENDS.

I GREW
UP DOWN THE
STREET FROM
YOU. REMEMBER?
YOU, ME AND LILY.
THE THREE LITTLE
WITCHES.

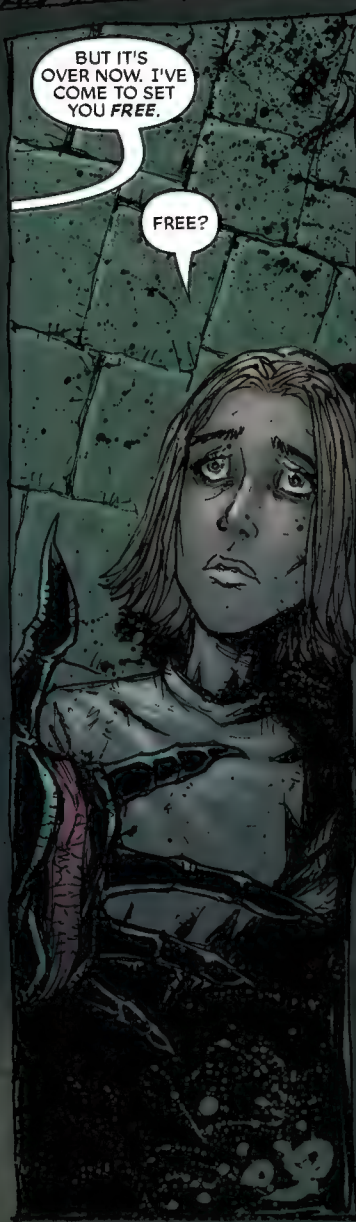


C-CARRIE...



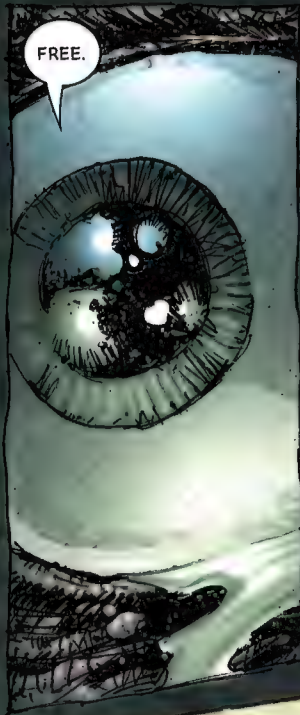
HOW...? WHY...?

I COULDN'T
LEAVE YOU HERE.
YOU DON'T DESERVE
THIS. THIS... EVERY-
THING THAT HAPPENED
TO YOU, IT WAS SO
UNFAIR.



BUT IT'S
OVER NOW. I'VE
COME TO SET
YOU FREE.

FREE?



FREE.

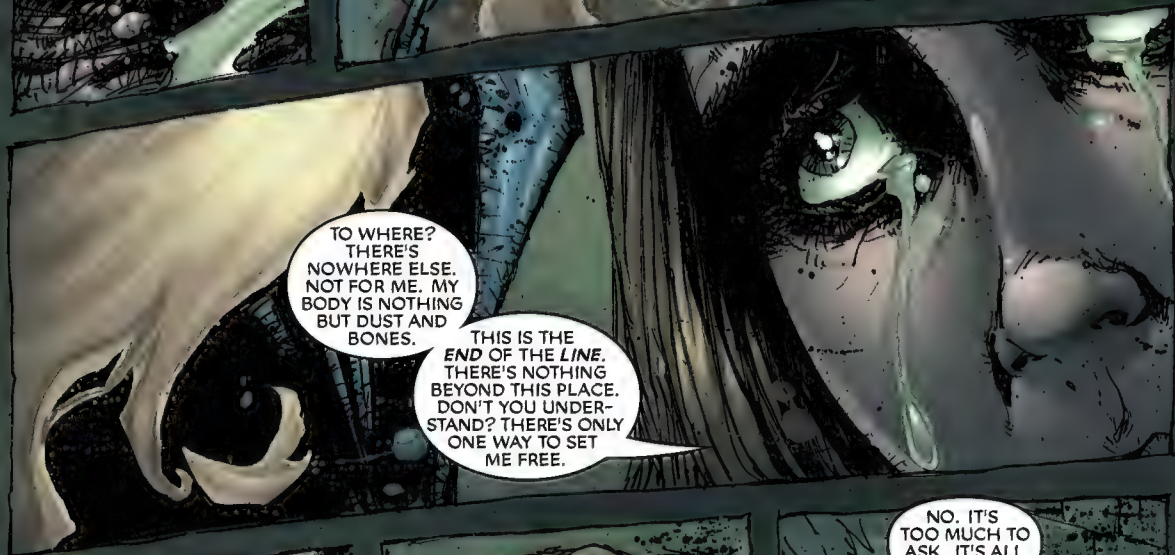


YES...
YES...I'M
READY.
PLEASE,
DO IT...

ALL
RIGHT.
EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE
FINE NOW. I'M
GOING TO
TAKE YOU
HOME.

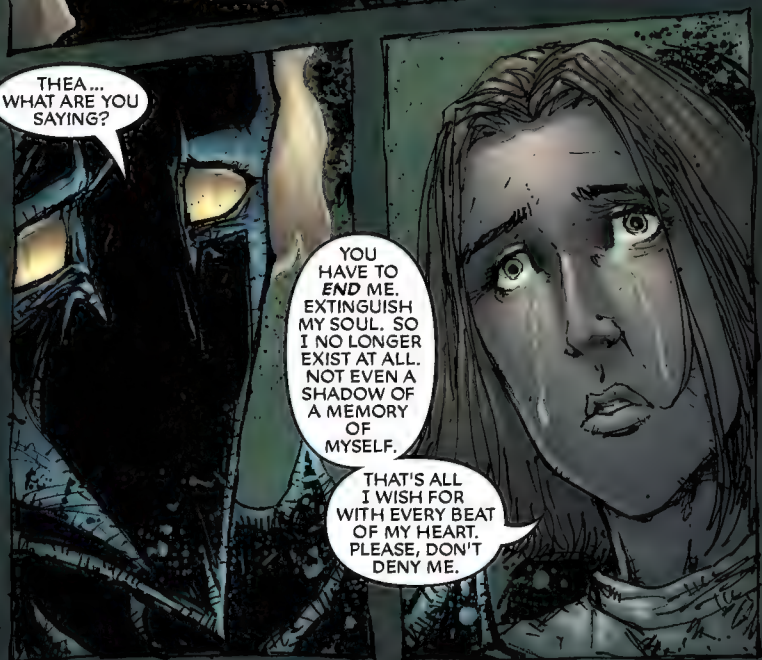
THERE'S
NO GOING
HOME FROM
HERE...

OF
COURSE
THERE IS.
I MADE A
BARGAIN. I
HAVE SAFE
PASSAGE.



TO WHERE?
THERE'S
NOWHERE ELSE.
NOT FOR ME. MY
BODY IS NOTHING
BUT DUST AND
BONES.

THIS IS THE
END OF THE LINE.
THERE'S NOTHING
BEYOND THIS PLACE.
DON'T YOU UNDER-
STAND? THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO SET
ME FREE.



THEA ...
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?

YOU
HAVE TO
END ME.
EXTINGUISH
MY SOUL. SO
I NO LONGER
EXIST AT ALL.
NOT EVEN A
SHADOW OF
A MEMORY
OF
MYSELF.

THAT'S ALL
I WISH FOR
WITH EVERY BEAT
OF MY HEART.
PLEASE, DON'T
DENY ME.



NO. IT'S
TOO MUCH TO
ASK. IT'S ALL
TOO EVIL.

THEA'S
RIGHT. IT'S
THE ONLY
WAY.



I WOULDN'T
EVEN KNOW
HOW...

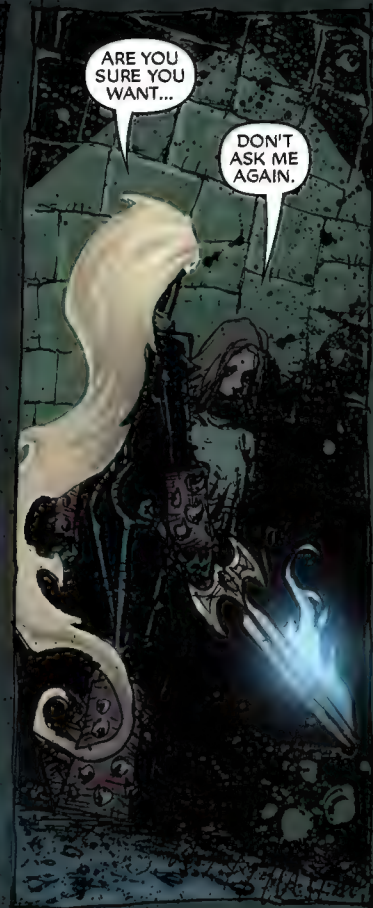
THE
SWORD.

PLEASE...
YOUR
SWORD.



DO IT
QUICKLY.

NOW
LEAVE
US.



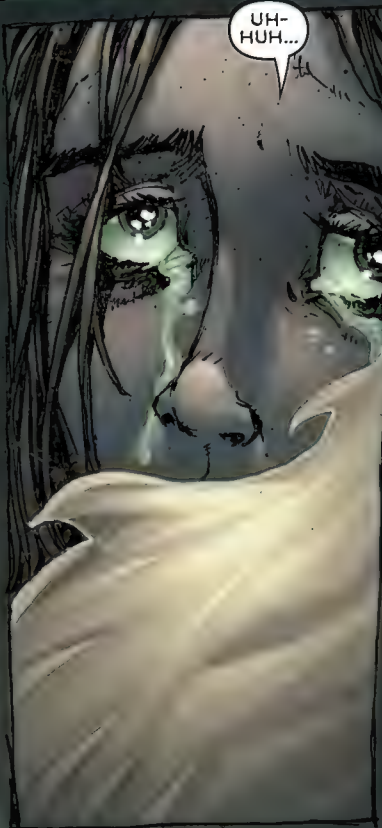
ARE YOU
SURE YOU
WANT...

DON'T
ASK ME
AGAIN.



OKAY...
REMEMBER THAT
SUMMER WE WENT TO
CAMP? AND WE SNUCK
OUT AT NIGHT TO CATCH
FIREBUGS AND DRANK
DR. PEPPER TILL WE
WERE SICK?

AND THEN
WE LAID DOWN
IN THE TALL
GRASS, WATCHING
THE SKY TURN
OVERHEAD.



UH-
HUH...



AND WE
WONDERED HOW
LIFE COULD HOLD SO
MUCH *BEAUTY* AND
MAGIC IN ONE LITTLE
MOMENT?

I WANT YOU
TO HOLD ON TO
THAT. PUT YOUR
ARMS AROUND IT
LIKE IT IS THE ONLY
TRUE THING IN THE
WORLD. CAN YOU
SEE IT?

YES.







VERY
WELL. THE
DOORWAY IS
OPENING.




SO
BEAUTIFUL...
I AM FOREVER
IN YOUR DEBT...
I WOULD GIVE
MY LIFE TO
PROTECT
YOU.



I JUST
MIGHT HAVE
TO TAKE
YOU UP ON
THAT...



A FINE
BARGAIN...



YES... A
VERY FINE
BARGAIN
INDEED.

THANKS. NAT'N JAY



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE